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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Naoki Kimura et al.                      Art Unit : Unknown  
Serial No. :    Examiner : Unknown  
Filed : Herewith  
Title : NOVEL SECRETORY MEMBRANE PROTEIN

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the application as follows:

In the specification:

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 4 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- This application is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/441,722, filed October 1, 1999, which is a continuation-in-part of PCT/JP98/01511 filed April 1, 1998, and claims priority from Japanese Application No. 9/99653 filed April 1, 1997. --

In the claims:

Cancel claims 9-27.

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May 14, 2001  
Lisa G. Gray  
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